

**INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS**

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COUNTRY Foreign Radios

DATE OF
INFORMATION 2-28 July 1949

SUBJECT FOREIGN RADIO REACTIONS TO RATIFICATION OF
THE ATLANTIC PACT AND THE PRESIDENT'S
HOW MESSAGE ON MAP

DATE DIST. 1 Aug 1949

HOW PUBLISHED

WHERE PUBLISHED Monitored Radio Broadcasts

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
PUBLISHED 22-28 July 1949

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

LANGUAGE Several

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE FBIB (This strictly factual report is based solely on monitored foreign broadcasts received in Washington up to 7 a.m., 28 July 1949. It reproduces a report prepared in response to a special report.)

INTRODUCTION: The Soviet reaction to ratification of the Atlantic Pact was quick, simple, and widely publicized by the Moscow radio: (1) "America has gone insane preparing for war in order to avoid an economic crisis"; and (2) while the Senate and the Parliaments of other countries have ratified the Pact, the overwhelming mass of the people of the world have not and never will approve it. Directing an immediate and heavy propaganda fire against the Military Aid Program and President Truman's message on the subject, Moscow charges that this is a program for dumping antiquated armaments at a handsome profit on Western Europe and that it is an attempt to encourage America's wavering West European "agents" in the face of tremendous opposition to the Pact from their peoples. The Satellite radios parrot Moscow in describing ratification of the Pact as "another step toward war" and in predicting a stormy voyage through Congress for the Military Aid Program. Western European reaction to ratification is enthusiastic, but tempered by anxiety over the possibility of Congressional curtailment or rejection of the Military Aid Program.

SENATE RATIFICATION OF THE ATLANTIC PACT: Moscow commentaries are quick and unanimous in agreeing that Senate ratification of the Pact is meaningless in view of the world-wide popular opposition to it. "A worthless scrap of paper," says a typical broadcast, adding: "The world movement for peace deems to failure this aggressive Pact of the Anglo-American imperialists." Another typical Soviet view, heard in at least 15 languages the day after ratification, states: "Their fear of the steadily oncoming crisis impels the American monopolists to accelerate their efforts for a way out of their difficulties... in a mad armaments race." A third Soviet line of attack on the Pact is to stress the alleged "contradictions" dividing the Pact signatories, as witnessed by the reported Anglo-American dispute over the sharing of atomic secrets. Satellite transmitters echo the Soviet line on ratification of the Pact. Warsaw points to the Anglo-American atomic dispute and warns that a war "provoked" by the Americans in Europe would automatically involve the Western European countries. In Berlin, the Red Army's TÄGLICHE RUNDSCHAU repeats a Moscow charge that ratification was intended to divert attention from the failure of America's "strong-arm" foreign policy, particularly in China. Bucharest stresses the strength of the world-wide "peace movement" and denounces the aggressive intentions of the Pact.

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Among Western European reactions, the Paris radio reports on Foreign Minister Schuman's defense of the Pact in the French Parliament, including his assurance that there was no possibility of admitting Germany into the Pact. It also notes Leon Blum's statement that ratification should not injure the chances of a Western-Soviet rapprochement, but might improve them. Norwegian Foreign Minister Lange says that ratification has "materially improved" the world situation, while the Stockholm radio reports that Swedish reaction to ratification is "most decidedly favorable," with one reservation "Will the United States back up the Pact with arms and supplies?"

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S MESSAGE ON MAP: Moscow charges that MAP has two basic purposes: (1) to stimulate war hysteria and intimidate people with weak nerves, and (2) to support the governing cliques of Western Europe. TASS denounces the President's message for announcing continued support for the U.N., although everyone allegedly knows that U.S. policy is to bypass the United Nations. He is also accused of ignoring the fact that the arms program will put a very heavy burden on the European countries. Moscow further states that the State Department pamphlet explaining MAP "frankly expresses the Administration's anti-Soviet and anti-Communist policy" and that it "deliberately conceives of the arms program as a means of helping to bolster the sagging American economy." Widest currency is given to statements by Senators Taft, Capehart, Vandenberg and others to demonstrate that MAP will have a rough passage through Congress. Satellite comment likewise stresses the "violent Congressional arguments" that MAP will arouse; and the Budapest radio interprets the failure to inform Senator Vandenberg in advance of the proposal as marking "the end of the bipartisan character of the U.S. foreign policy."

West European reaction to the President's message on MAP is tinged with anxiety about the attitude of Congress. In France, the De Gaullist press states that it "would not be satisfied with a Maginot Line on paper," and calls for a precise statement of the strategical role to be allotted to France and of the weapons to be supplied. The independent-leftist LIBERATION stresses that France is incapable of meeting the annual expense needed to create a modern army, but Paris radio commentator Lionel Dyrand contends that Mr. Truman's program would bring material reinforcement to the security of Europe without affecting its economic development. The London TIMES concedes the "attractiveness" of Vandenberg's conditions in appeasing Congressional opposition but says they might be "highly dangerous" to Europe. The DAILY TELEGRAPH sees some justice in Vandenberg's plans but none at all in Taft's.

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